(c) if not, the steps taken in that direction; and

(d) the precise jurisdiction of the contemplated Court and its constitution?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The negotiations for the establishment of a permanent International Criminal Court had been completed in 1998. With the necessary number of ratifications (16) of the Statutes of the ICC now complete, it would appear that the Court will come into existence in the next year.

(b) and (c) India had not signed the Statutes of the Court because of certain reservations on principles.

(d) The Court is expected to have jurisdiction over crimes such as crimes against humanity, genocide and war crimes.

Advisory Committee for Reviewing the Companies Act, 1956

3041. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Companies Act, 1956 with over 560 sections has become archaic and redundant in the present day context;

(b) whether the Department of Company Affairs has set-up an Advisory Committee for reviewing the Act to make it user-friendly and practical; and

(c) if so, the whether the Committee has submitted its report and if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The various provisions contained in the Companies Act, 1956 monitor, regulate and control the affairs of the companies. Whenever the need arises, these provisions are amended keeping in view the purpose of the Act.

(b) and (c) An Advisory Committee has been constituted for

advising on such matters arising out of the administration of the Companies Act, 1956, as may be referred to it by the Government.

Filing of returns by MNCs

3042. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Company Affairs has decided against exempting MNCs from filing returns on their overseas subsidiaries;

(b) whether this move is prompted by reports that MNCs are suspected to be parking/siphoning illegal funds abroad to avoid tax; and

(c) whether the MNCs have opposed Government's move and if so, the reasons advanced by them towards continuing the exemption?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Pending matrimonial cases in various courts

3043. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of long-pending matrimonial cases in various courts;

(b) if so, whether any proposal to set-up a family court in every district in the country is under consideration;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) and (c) The Committee on Empowerment of Women in their Fifth Report on 'Functioning of Family Courts' has suggested setting up of Family Court in every district in the country. The Central